

From: Ben Eavey
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 12:12pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

My response: NO.

I'm adding my voice to the thousands of people who KNOW that the proposed Microsoft settlement is a bad idea. The settlement does NOT prohibit Microsoft from continuing its anti-competitive practices, and in fact it may actually HELP them to further dominate and control the industry, to the detriment of the general public.

The settlement does not punish Microsoft in any way for past offenses! It simply attempts to prohibit them from abusing their monopoly further in the future. The problem is that the language of the settlement doesn't actually prohibit them from doing anything! With a few simple changes to their licensing policies, and a few minor adjustments to their operating system, they will easily outmaneuver anything laid out here.

How can a company commit illegal acts, benefit greatly both financially and in market-share, and then not be punished for those actions? Break the law, and then be told, "well, just don't do it again?" Ridiculous.

It appears that the court is simply agreeing to a settlement to make the whole thing go away. The settlement is unfair, unjust, and does not accomplish ANYTHING as far as controlling an anti-competitive, illegal monopoly. A settlement that is unjust is simply compounding the wrong that brought Microsoft here in the first place.

I believe this settlement is counter to the interests of the American public, deleterious to the American economy, and not adequate given the findings of fact in the trial.

Sincerely,

Benjamin Eavey
Kentwood, MI